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## Letter from Kate C. Barton to Floride Clemson, 1856 April 23

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~~A~~  
~~2626.~~

Philadelphia - April 23.

[illegible]



an occasional green shade, or head pointing whirling  
the promontory. The picture with the ruins - I  
enjoy it calls up, is more amusing than pleasant,  
so I will turn from it. Tell her to begin  
at the quietest piece of ours, your companion  
Cousin Annie is coming home on Friday or Saturday  
with her "Infant Phenomenon", otherwise called  
Maggie. They have not seen her for two years, and  
having been cut off from all means of communication  
with her till lately, this is the extent of the day.  
About two weeks ago they received a letter from  
her begging Uncle to meet her in Baltimore last  
Friday, which he accordingly did, to his great in-  
convenience, but no Annie was to be found or heard  
of, and a couple of days afterward an epistle  
from Aunt Constance came, saying the first letter  
had been despatched by mistake, and Annie was  
not coming at all. It was dated only a day  
later than the first, but owing to the singularity  
of the mails, did not reach us in time to prevent  
Uncle's going. On the strength of another letter  
of still later date which I left last night  
for Virginia, and will return with Annie  
the end of the week. I am quite anxious to see  
her and hear all the news, for they are afraid  
to say any thing in their letters, and Aunt C's  
are such queer crazy things, they only mystify  
us, and leave us in the dark as regards matters  
and things in general that are ever before - having only



the effort of making us grope painfully for  
the light. I suppose you have seen in  
the papers that Bush Washington is a prisoner  
and now at Fort Sherman. He and George  
and Jimmie Alexanders' two brothers were in the  
battle at Winchester. Poor George was badly  
wounded; a bullet entered just above his heart  
and came out near his shoulder blade. The  
four boys were together at the time, and tried  
to carry him off the field - but he begged them  
to leave him and save themselves. Bush remained  
at his side however, and the Alexanders left him;  
and it was in this way that Bush was taken.  
Henry Winter Davis, is to intercede for him, and  
they think will be able to get him off on his  
parole of honor. Mrs W. went up to nurse George  
who is now beginning to improve - a few days  
ago, a piece of his rib was taken out of the  
wound. I cannot imagine how he can possibly  
recover, yet they say he is nearly out of danger!  
This Crook is to be married to Emily - the  
missionary "as soon as government will permit."  
She is obliged to give up all her property, but says  
she thinks she thinks it will suit her better to  
be the wife of a poor man. I would not agree  
with her, if I were situated! would you? I  
have lately seen many of my friends mentioned in  
the papers, and knew five of Beauregard's  
staff at Pittsburg Landing - I do not all this



<sup>2</sup>  
bloodshed make you sick - that was surely more  
a more unwholesome than this. Do you know  
when C. is proud, I often wonder, but never see  
any thing to give me a clue as to his whereabouts or  
what abouts.

I only came up yesterday  
and will return on Monday - I would remain longer  
but have two little musical scholars at C. and it  
tires me down to certain times always. I only come at  
any rate to do my Spring shopping and have my  
photographs taken. So the next time you hear  
from me it will be to see me too. I have been kept  
busy doing at my new clothes and am not yet through  
you know I required a great deal this summer. I have  
converted my black silk furring and a duster into short  
sleeves, which are all the rage here and in New York.

You could easily make your duster into a cake too if  
you wished. I can send you the pattern for which I  
cut mine. Bonnets are worn enormous, in high points  
and projecting very far forward, so every one seems to  
be bumping over on their faces, or walking as Mary  
Chesson used to. The dresses are a great deal trimmed  
around the bottom, with ruffled and arches of the  
same material as the skirt, sometimes put in straight  
sometimes in waves or points. Gilted ribbon is the  
only trimming now worn, and silk skirts trimmed  
with it are very fashionable. Loose white bodices are  
also quite the style this summer, and white is going  
to be worn more than formerly. I tell you all this  
because I suppose you may want to send a skirt